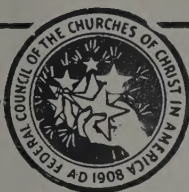


Federal Council BULLETIN

Vol. XXIII, No. 3



March, 1940



On one of New York's busiest streets, bronze tablets on either side of the door indicate the national headquarters of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.



A JOURNAL OF INTERCHURCH COÖPERATION

Coming Events

A calendar of the more important national meetings of church organizations, so far as known to the BULLETIN, is published monthly in this column.

FEDERAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
New York, N. Y.....	March 29, 1940
NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF THE U. S. A.	
Atlantic City, N. J.....	April 10-16, 1940
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH	
Atlantic City, N. J.....	April 24, 1940
GENERAL CONFERENCE, AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH	
Detroit, Mich.....	May 1, 1940
NORTH AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, WORLD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	
Lake Mohonk, N. Y.....	May 9, 10, 1940
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S.	
Chattanooga, Tenn.....	May 16, 1940
NORTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION	
Atlantic City, N. J.....	May 21-26, 1940
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	
Buffalo, N. Y.....	May 22, 1940
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.	
Rochester, N. Y.....	May 23, 1940
CHURCH CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORK	
Grand Rapids, Mich.....	May 26-June 1, 1940
GENERAL SYNOD, REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA	
Buck Hill Falls, Pa.....	June 6, 1940
ANNUAL MEETING, FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA	
Swarthmore, Pa.....	June 10-13, 1940
GENERAL SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH	
Lancaster, Pa.....	June 19-26, 1940
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CONGREGATIONAL AND CHRISTIAN CHURCHES	
Berkeley, Calif.....	August 15-22, 1940
SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST GENERAL CONFERENCE	
Battle Creek, Mich.....	August 20-25, 1940

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FEDERAL COUNCIL BULLETIN

A Journal of Interchurch Coöperation

Issued by

THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AMERICA

CONSTITUTED BY TWENTY-TWO NATIONAL COMMUNIONS:

Northern Baptist Convention
National Baptist Convention
Congregational and Christian Churches
Disciples of Christ
Evangelical Church
Evangelical and Reformed Church
Friends
The Methodist Church
African M. E. Church

African M. E. Zion Church
Colored M. E. Church in America
Moravian Church
Presbyterian Church in U.S.A.
National Council of the Protestant
Episcopal Church
(Coöperating Agency)
Reformed Church in America

Reformed Episcopal Church
Seventh Day Baptist Churches
Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church of
North America
United Brethren Church
United Church of Canada
United Lutheran Church
(Consultative Body)
United Presbyterian Church

VOL. XXIII, No. 3

MARCH, 1940

THE EDITORIAL OUTLOOK

There is a Man on the Cross

Whenever there is silence around me
By day or by night—
I am startled by a cry.
It came down from the cross—
The first time I heard it.
I went out and searched—
And found a man in the throes of crucifixion,
And I said, "I will take you down,"
And I tried to take the nails out of his feet,
But he said, "let them be
For I cannot be taken down
Until every man, every woman, and every child
Come together to take me down."
And I said, "But I cannot bear your cry.
What can I do?"
And he said, "Go about the world—
Tell every one that you meet—
There is a man on the cross."

—*Elizabeth Cheney.*

The Federal Council, President Roosevelt and the Vatican

So much confusion has surrounded President Roosevelt's appointment of Mr. Myron C. Taylor as his representative to work with the Pope for world peace that widely divergent interpretations have been placed upon it. A careful review of the facts is called for.

First, as to President Roosevelt's action:

1. In making the appointment Mr. Roosevelt described Mr. Taylor as his "personal representative." He, of course, could not appoint an am-

bassador (even if he desired to do so) without submitting the nomination to the Senate and securing its confirmation. The President did, however, refer to Mr. Taylor as having "the rank of ambassador." This ambiguous phrase left room for conflicting judgments as to just what was involved.

2. Mr. Taylor carried no credentials as an ambassador; he bore to the Vatican only a personal letter from the President to the Pope.

Second, as to the Federal Council's action:

1. The President of the Council, Dr. George A. Buttrick, made no statement about the appointment. His message to President Roosevelt on December 23 was concerned exclusively with an invitation to come to the White House from time to time for consultation on problems of world peace. Neither the invitation nor the reply contained any reference whatever to the appointment of Mr. Taylor.

2. On January 16 Dr. Buttrick, as President of the Federal Council, wrote to President Roosevelt, calling attention to the fact that a Vatican announcement had declared that Mr. Taylor would be regarded at the Vatican as "the provisional ambassador to the Holy See." Dr. Buttrick explained that this was creating serious misgivings among Protestants who "sense a threat to their convictions." In behalf of the Council he asked for "positive public assurance" that the President had "no desire or intention" to establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican. On January 23, the Assistant Secretary of

State, to whom President Roosevelt referred the inquiry, wrote that the appointment of Mr. Taylor "does not constitute the inauguration of formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican."

3. At its first meeting (January 26) after the appointment of Mr. Taylor the Federal Council's Executive Committee unanimously adopted a statement which

- (a) issued a warning that if the appointment should prove a stepping-stone to diplomatic relations with the Vatican the measure would be opposed;
- (b) assumed the possibility that Mr. Taylor's work "may contribute to the cause of peace."

This statement carefully refrained from expressing approval of even a temporary appointment and went on record as strongly opposing any permanent appointment. Behind the statement lay the assumption that Mr. Taylor's mission was "strictly temporary, unofficial and centrally concerned with efforts for world peace." The ground for this assumption was the positive, written assurance, given on January 23 by the Department of State, that the appointment does not "constitute the inauguration of formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican." This assumption was reinforced by the informal report of members of the Baptist delegation, who had earlier conferred with President Roosevelt, that they had been told that diplomatic recognition of the Vatican was not involved.

In a word, the Federal Council's Executive Committee provisionally accepted the assurances given by the White House and the Department of State, but warned that this attitude would not continue if future events should indicate that the appointment led to official diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Those who have been more radical than the Federal Council in their criticism of President Roosevelt's action have apparently assumed that Mr. Taylor's mission could have no values whatever for peace. This has seemed to the Federal Council's Executive Committee to be—at the present time—an extreme and dogmatic position, which ought not to be adopted so long as there is some ground for the hope that Mr. Taylor may accomplish something constructive. Surely it would not be to the credit of Prot-

estantism if it should find itself in the situation, at some future time, of having blocked a movement that was able to contribute to the ending of the war and to saving the lives of countless men.

Subsequent to the meeting of the Federal Council's Executive Committee, a dispatch from Rome, which appeared in the *New York Times* on February 14, reported "a Vatican jurist" as having completed a study of the matter for the Vatican and as concluding that Mr. Taylor "will be just as much an ambassador to the Holy See as the representatives of other nations," and that he might "remain accredited to the Holy See even after Mr. Roosevelt ceased to be President."

The interpretation which the Vatican thus placed upon the President's action ran sharply counter to the interpretation which he had personally made and which was confirmed in writing to the Federal Council of Churches by the Assistant Secretary of State. The President of the Council therefore wrote to Mr. Roosevelt insisting that a public statement was called for declaring the Vatican's understanding of the appointment to be contrary to that of the President. Dr. Buttrick said in part:

"Therefore, because you have asked me to assist in 'parallel efforts' for peace, and in behalf of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, I do hereby respectfully request that you publicly state that the interpretation reported from the Vatican is contrary to your understanding of the appointment and is not accepted by you."

Although up to the present time President Roosevelt has not made such a statement, the reports of Mr. Taylor's reception in Rome seem to indicate that he was received as a personal representative of the President.

Bread or Guns for America?

A number of circumstances are combining to jeopardize still further the lot of the least privileged and most unfortunate. As Miss Grace Coyle, President of the National Conference of Social Work, said recently at a meeting of the Federal Council's Department of the Church and Social Service, "even the appeal to pity has lost its force" in a world filled with so much tragedy. In the face of the suffering and dire

need of millions of our people, the old question comes to life, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?"

Conservative estimates indicate that about nine million potential workers are still unemployed. The situation is still more serious because during the fall of 1939 industrial production again equaled that of a similar period in 1929. Yet because of technological and other developments, the total number of gainfully occupied in all types of employment was three million less than 1929, and the number of unemployed about five times the number of the unemployed in 1929. The situation seems to be accounted for by a combination of technological advance, resulting in the employment of fewer workers for a given amount of production, and the increase in population year by year. More workers and fewer jobs.

Various forces today are creating the prospect that our unemployed may once more become our forgotten men. The situation also presents the danger that the United States also will embark on a program of guns instead of bread, since politicians are tempted to feel that it is easier to raise money for "defense" than for domestic relief and social services. The desperate shift to armament economics, the reliance chiefly upon increases in the army and navy and their equipment, has characterized other governments which were unable to solve their domestic problems. It has led such countries in the direction of military control of national policy, and in many cases toward totalitarianism and into actual war.

Appropriations for relief and social services in the United States must not be cut while military appropriations are increased. Until more fundamental and constructive solutions can be worked out to abolish unemployment, the Christian conscience will demand that increased burdens of suffering shall not be placed upon "these least His brethren."

The Church's Great Contribution to Peace

The fact that the Church is now a world community is, humanly speaking, the achievement of the foreign missionary movement. At the same time when the process of making the earth a

physical neighborhood has been going on, another process has been bringing men around the globe into a spiritual fellowship centering in the universal Church. We have the beginnings of an ecumenical Church because of what the missionary movement has done.

Christians are now wanting to know what they can do to help in the building of a new international order which will be a political expression of ecumenical Christianity. The most important part of the answer is that the basic thing, and a thing which even the humblest can do, is to strengthen the greatest universal fellowship that exists today, *i. e.*, the world-wide Church.

This remark may sound naive at first but it goes to the core of the whole problem of war and peace. For the ultimate necessity for a new world order is the development of a common body of moral convictions—of what is now often spoken of as an "international ethos." So long as each state is a law unto itself, so long as it is conscious of no duty to the people of other nations, no true world order can exist. So long, for example, as Americans feel free to make any immigration laws they please, regardless of their effect on the Japanese; or to fix the price of silver without thought as to what it may do to the Chinese; or to impose any tariff whatever without concern for its consequences to the Filipinos, so long we shall have no lasting peace. To develop in all nations a deeper sense of universal fellowship, of international solidarity, of regard for each other's needs, is a *sine qua non* of a new world order.

But no such spirit of mutuality can be fostered on the basis of exclusive loyalty to a nation. There must be a supra-national loyalty and there must be supra-national norms and standards. Whence are such supra-national loyalties and standards to come, unless there can be some universal frame-of-reference, such as is involved in the recognition of God as the Lord of all nations? And how is such a consciousness of a universal moral sovereignty to be created except through the experience of a universal fellowship in the Christian Gospel and in the Church which has that Gospel as its charter?

Christian Community in Europe, 1940

WHAT will happen to our ecumenical fellowship in wartime? Will it break down in the face of rampant nationalism or will it be maintained? These questions, which have been so pressing during recent years, are now being answered in Europe. The final answer cannot be given yet; but a first answer can be given. I have just returned from an eight weeks' trip to visit the churches over there.

The awareness of fellowship transcending national frontiers was apparent among leaders of the churches of England, Germany and France. The burden and strain of war seem to have increased their dependence upon the resources of the Christian community. One German friend, as he took my hand, said warmly, "Ah, your hand has grasped also recently the hands of old friends. We are one!" And a French friend some days later asked eagerly for German Christian comrades, saying, "I could not work if I did not know that they are still my brothers." These are characteristic of many experiences which make life poignant for one going from one belligerent nation to another.

The Ecumenical Commission for the Chaplaincy Service to Prisoners of War, composed of churchmen from neutral nations, is directing the work for non-Roman Christian prisoners in the three western belligerent nations. It collaborates with the International Red Cross under the terms of the Convention of 1929 governing the treatment of prisoners of war. There was no corresponding agency comprehensively representing our interests in the last war.

The executives of various ecumenical organizations with international offices in Geneva are meeting regularly and coöperating closely in the Emergency Committee of Christian Organizations. Here information is exchanged and a division of responsibility agreed upon in relation to various war relief projects, assistance to refugees, and other emergency measures. Thus there is constant clear-
ance between the Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches, the World's Alliance of the Y.M.C.A.s, the World's Y.W.C.A., the World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches, the Central Bureau for Inter-Church Aid and the World Student Christian Federation.

As I travelled I found the representatives of these organizations in various countries working in the general interest of the total Christian community. This was especially true in France where organizational and national lines almost disappear as between church, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Student Christian Movement and committees for refugees—German, Czech, Spanish, Russian, Polish.

America is participating directly or indirectly in all these efforts to strengthen the Christian community. Some of the agents in the field are American. Americans contribute financially. They participate in meetings and conferences. They make personal visits. Europeans and Americans are working and praying together. In the midst of the breakdown of the political community we are witnessing the reality of the ecumenical community.

ROSWELL P. BARNES.

World Council In Wartime

IN spite of the disruptions caused by the war the Administrative Committee of the World Council of Churches met in Apeldoorn, Holland, January 7-8, to plan for the maintenance of the work of the Council. Those who went to Holland for the meeting included the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Chichester, and Dr. Henry Carter, from England; Pastor Marc Boegner, and Rev. Charles Guillon from France; Professor S. F. H. J. Berkelbach van der Sprenkel from Holland; Dr. Alphons Koechlin and Dr. Marc Chenevière from Switzerland; Rev. Roswell P. Barnes from the United States, and as members of the Geneva Staff of the World Council Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft (Holland), Dr. William Paton (England), Dr. Hans Schönfeld (Germany), Dr. Nils Ehrenström (Sweden). Bishop Eidem of Sweden, Bishop Berggrav of Oslo, Bishop Nowak of Denmark and Professor Gulin of Finland were also present at some of the sessions for consultation.

It was reported that since the last meeting of the Executive Committee in September the following churches had accepted the invitation to become members of the

World Council:

Northern Baptist Convention (U.S.A.)
Reformed Church in America
South India United Church
United Evangelical Church of the Philippines
Reformed Church of Hungary
Reformed Church of the Netherlands
English Methodist Church
The Christian Missionary Church of Belgium.

The total number of churches which have now affiliated with the World Council is 65.

Major attention was given to assistance to the non-Aryan refugees from Germany, to which Dr. Adolf Freudenberg is now devoting his full time as a representative of the World Council of Churches. The ministry to prisoners of war and interned civilians was also a matter of great concern and a committee was approved to supervise the prospective work of the World Council in providing chaplains to prisoners of war in the various belligerent countries. An appeal from Finland for relief was given sympathetic attention. Plans for ecumenical study cen-

tering around the contribution of the churches to a new world order after the war were formulated.

With regard to the maintenance of ecumenical fellowship and unity during the war, the mind of the Administrative Committee was expressed in the following minute:

"At a time of war and enmity we reaffirm the unity in Christ of all who believe in Him and seek to obey His will. We urge that in prayer all Christian people be helped to make real to themselves their spiritual

fellowship with their brethren in Christ despite all earthly occasions of division or separation. When we pray as Christ taught us, we are one; if we ask God to do our will, we are divided; but when our prayer is for the doing of His will, we are united. Especially as we lift up our hearts in adoration of the eternal majesty and love of God do we find that all differences between us disappear. Here—in prayer and worship—is our first and chief means of expressing and quickening our sense of universal fellowship in Christ."

Christianity in Action in China

By JOY HOMER

(Miss Homer, youngest daughter of Madam Louise Homer, the opera and concert singer, has just returned from a year's travel in China. Her report is based on wide observations and firsthand experiences in the interior of China and in areas not reached by most visitors.—Editor)

AMID the furor of fighting, the missionaries are now leaders in reconstruction. With the emergency funds from the Church Committee for China Relief and other organizations in America, they have built new wings on hospitals, put up temporary mat sheds for air-raid wounded, set up new clinics in villages, formed disease-prevention units, organized work relief for the refugees, established orphanages for the war orphans, organized schools for refugee children, schools for cripples, schools for old people. Through all this new increased activity the missionaries have kept their wits about them, remained matter-of-fact and level-headed and kept their sense of humor.

It has not been easy. There have been bombings which would give Europe nightmares. I have seen mission doctors treating wounded in hospitals not even look up when bombs fell on the compound and glass and plaster were showered all about them. At Chengchow the American Baptist mission and hospital has been bombed no less than thirty times and during this period they have been able to enlarge their work to many times what it was before and to save countless lives. Yet there is a lack of doctors, a lack of quinine and other medical supplies, a lack of funds. It is tragically and ironically typical of the state of this world that such a hundred-percent effective Christian work should be hampered and restricted because we in America have grown tired of this long, monotonous war, because there are other wars now and because helping China has gone out of fashion. Nevertheless, with what little they have, the missionaries have been able to work miracles. They can take a starving refugee and rehabilitate him and his whole family with one American dollar. This means that men, women and even children in our country have almost God-like power to

make a magic investment in human lives in China.

The Chinese of every religion are saying that the missionaries, because they have stayed in China in her crisis, because they have saved so many of her people's lives at the daily risk of their own, because they have been a spiritual backbone to the whole country, have done more toward strengthening Christianity and the Christian way of life in China during these last two and a half years than in all the other hundred and more years since the first missionaries set foot on Chinese soil. An extreme statement, perhaps, but there is much truth in it, too.

The Chinese people the nation over are looking at the Christians with new eyes. They are saying to themselves: "This Christianity really seems to work. The Christians are doing heroic things for us. They have become our leaders. These people actually practice what they preach. It is incredible!"

Typical evidence of the "incredible" I saw in a mud village which we passed through on horseback. It was growing dark and we could not stop, but our guide told us that the village was made up entirely of Chinese Christians, refugees from a coastal city.

"Apparently they have kept themselves busy," he said. "Look there."

We looked and saw proudly displayed over the gate to the village an honorary plaque such as the Chinese traditionally give to persons who have done something very meritorious. Obviously it was a gift from the magistrates and people of the country. The words on the plaque were these:

"Our deep gratitude to the families of this place who, through the thing inside of them called Christianity, have done more to nurse our sick and our wounded and to help our troubled people than any group we know."

Churches Unite in Studying World Peace

WHILE the BULLETIN is in press the National Study Conference on the Churches and the International Situation, convened by the Federal Council of Churches with the coöperation of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, is being held in Philadelphia February 27-29.

The most important work of the conference will be done in a series of six seminars dealing with the following themes:

The Local Church and the World Crisis

Missions and the World Crisis

Conscientious Objectors in Wartime

The Ecumenical Movement and the Peace and War Problem

The Churches and American Policy

The Responsibility of the Churches in Relieving Suffering Caused by War.

Important material as background for the discussion in each of these seminars has already been mailed to the two hundred delegates appointed by twenty-three denominations to represent them in the conference. It is expected that each of the seminars will produce a series of findings which will be submitted both to the Federal Council and to the several denominations for their consideration.

At a luncheon meeting on February 28 Rev. Roswell P. Barnes, who returned from Europe on February 21 after

spending several weeks in Germany, in France and in the neutral countries studying the international situation and conferring widely with Church leaders, will report his observations.

Among the speakers at plenary sessions will be Mr. John Foster Dulles, eminent international lawyer, who was counsel to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace at the end of the World War. His theme will be "The United States and the World of Nations." Other addresses will be given by Dr. Albert W. Beaven, President of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, on "The Teaching and Preaching of the Church in a Time of World Crisis," and Professor Henry Pitney Van Dusen, of Union Theological Seminary, on "The Significance of the Church As a World Community."

Leaders of the services of worship and resource leaders in the seminar discussions include Bishop Herbert Welch, Dr. A. L. Warnshuis, Dr. William Adams Brown, Dr. Channing H. Tobias, Rev. R. H. Edwin Espy, Dr. John H. Lathrop, Dr. Charles T. Leber, Dr. Leslie B. Moss, Rev. Richard Fagley, Mrs. Henry Hill Pierce, Rev. Harold Fey and Dr. Luman J. Shafer.

The closing address will be given by Dr. Buttrick as President of the Federal Council.

Dr. James H. Franklin, Chairman of the Federal Council's Department of International Justice and Goodwill, will preside.

Worship Seminars at St. Louis and Des Moines

THE Sixth Annual Convocation at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo., January 30-February 1, provided an important place in the program for the subject of worship. The Ninth Annual Session of the Iowa Ministers' Convocation, at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, February 5-7, devoted the entire program to worship. Each of these convocations brought together large representations of ministers and laity from their areas and were outstanding gatherings.

At Eden Seminary the three afternoon programs provided parallel seminars arranged by the Federal Council, one on worship and the other on Christian unity. The principal leaders of the former were Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Dickinson, of the School of Sacred Music, Union Theological Seminary. They discussed with large and interested audiences the importance of music in worship, the value of the Hymn Book, and a repertoire of choral and organ music. On the last afternoon, Dr. H. Paul Douglass discussed "Ecumenical Worship," and Rev. Deane Edwards "Vital Worship." The outstanding feature of the program was a recital in Christ Church Cathedral, St.

Louis. Dr. Dickinson gave eight organ numbers, and a selected choir from ten of the St. Louis churches gave seven choral numbers. A responsive audience of 1000 people was present. This occasion was arranged by the Metropolitan Church Federation of St. Louis, Dr. Clark Walker Cummings, Secretary, and by Professor Howard Kelsey, of Eden Seminary.

The Des Moines Convocation was held in the spacious quarters of the University Church adjoining the campus of Drake University, under the leadership of a committee of which Dr. F. J. Weertz of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was president, and Dean Seth W. Slaughter, first vice-president. The Council of Churches of the Des Moines area coöperated with the Convocation Committee. President Albert W. Palmer, of Chicago Theological Seminary, gave three addresses on worship under the Drake University Bible College lectureship. Dr. Earl E. Harper, Director of the School of Fine Arts, Iowa State University, gave three lectures on the relation of music to worship. Others who addressed the Convocation were Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, of Des Moines;

Rev. Robert A. Walsh, of Dowling College; and Rev. Deane Edwards, of New York. On Monday evening, Dr. F. J. Weertz, with his choir of sixty voices from St. John's, led a service of worship according to the Lutheran ritual. On Tuesday evening, the Drake University choir gave an outstanding program illustrative of various types of choral music.

SUMMER INSTITUTES AT EVANSTON AND CHAUTAUQUA

The Committee on Worship announces that plans are under way for two important Institutes on Worship during August. One will be held at Evanston, Illinois, from the

4th through the 9th, in coöperation with the Conference on Sacred Music at Northwestern University. This combination of music and worship gives an unusual opportunity to ministers, musicians, and other interested individuals, particularly in the Middle West.

The other Institute will be a part of the regular program at Chautauqua, N. Y., during the two weeks from the 4th through the 16th. Various aspects of worship will be presented, including conferences on sacred music. The Chautauqua Institute also gives opportunity for participation in the varied activities of that unique American institution on the shores of Chautauqua Lake near Jamestown, N. Y.

Religious Educators Meet

THE annual meeting of the International Council of Religious Education, held in Chicago, February 5-10, brought together leaders in educational work in the churches of the nation. Among the subjects which commanded major attention were the following:

1. *The Relation of Religion to Public Education.* Dean Luther A. Weigle declared that "to exclude religion from public schools would be to surrender these schools to the sectarianism of atheism and irreligion." He held that it is possible to inculcate a basic religious faith that is "deeper and more fundamental than any of religion's institutional or sectarian forms."

2. *The Development of a New Policy in the Production of Lesson Materials.* A report of a committee on this subject showed that sixty percent of the churches still use uniform lessons and emphasized the need for the national agencies to produce simpler materials to fit the actual practice within Sunday schools.

3. *Temperance Education.* On this subject strong resolutions were passed and great interest shown in the plans.

4. *Training for Christian Social Living,* including the Christian attitude toward war and race relations and the problems of rural children and youth today.

5. *The Simplification of the Structure of the International Council.* The merging of the Executive Committee and of the Educational Commission in a "Central Committee" was approved, subject to ratification by the constituent boards.

6. *Relations with Other Interdenominational Bodies.* The proposal made by the Federal Council of Churches that the Federal Council, the International Council, the Home Missions Council, the Council of Women for Home Missions and the National Council of Church Women appoint negotiating committees to discuss their "union in a single corporate body" which would "carry the existing functions of all the uniting agencies," was not accepted in its original form. The Executive Committee of the International Council reported itself as "not as yet convinced of the desirability or practicability of the proposal

for union in a single corporate body." It expressed its approval, however, of coöperation with the Federal Council and the other agencies in all matters of common interest and appointed a committee to study relationships, with the proviso that this did not involve any commitment to actual union.

Help for Finland

The Finnish Relief Fund, Inc., under the chairmanship of Hon. Herbert Hoover, has already received widespread support from the churches, and an increasing response is expected as a result of a letter which was mailed last month to pastors. Coöperating with Mr. Hoover's committee in behalf of the church groups is Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council.

Since the people of Finland are predominantly Lutheran, a special appeal for them has been launched by the National Lutheran Council, which is seeking through its churches a half-million dollars for the relief of those suffering from the war, including the Finns, refugees from Germany, and foreign mission stations whose support has been cut off as a result of the war.

Dr. George A. Buttrick on February first sent a special message to the head of the Church of Finland, Archbishop Kaila, expressing the deep sympathy of American Christians of all denominations. The message was as follows:

"In behalf of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, representing twenty-two communions, we desire to express to you our deep sense of Christian fellowship with you in Finland's hour of severe trial and suffering. We have unbounded admiration both for the spirit of your people and for the devotion and fidelity of your church.

"We have counted it a joy to have a part in the effort of the Finnish Relief Fund, Inc., under the chairmanship of Honorable Herbert Hoover, to provide relief to the suffering among your people at this critical time.

"We think of you constantly as the representative of a Church which is a vital part of the world-wide Christian community, and we pray for God's blessing upon you and the Finnish Christians, who are one with us in the fellowship of the universal Church."

Death of Bishop de Schweinitz

In the death of Bishop Paul de Schweinitz of the Moravian Church on February 8, the Federal Council of Churches lost one of its founders and charter members. Bishop de Schweinitz was one of the Moravian representatives at the Interchurch Conference on Federation held in Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1905, out of which the Federal Council grew. He attended the first meeting of the Council in Philadelphia in 1908 and has been a member both of the Council and of its Executive Committee during all of the succeeding years.

Bishop de Schweinitz was known not only throughout American Protestantism but around the world as an outstanding leader in the foreign missionary movement. He was a descendant of Count von Zinzendorf, one of the founders of the Moravian Church. From 1898 to 1930 Bishop de Schweinitz was Missionary Secretary for the Moravian Church. He was also for more than forty years treasurer of the governing board of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church. An ardent advocate of Christian unity, Bishop de Schweinitz was active in interdenominational efforts, especially in the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and in the Federal Council of Churches.

Religion on the Campus

The University Christian Mission, which has been carried on during the past two years, comes to its final week March 2-8 at the University of Arkansas.

The Mission at the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo, January 27-February 2, made such an impression upon the students and the faculty alike that the President, Dr. Frank L. Eversull, wrote to Dr. Jesse M. Bader, the Director of the Mission, as follows:

"I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity that we had to participate in this great movement. I am frank to say that it exceeded all of our fondest expectations. I have never been through a more profound experience. We have every reason to believe that, on the average, each student was contacted ten times during the week by one or another of the staff.

"I further wish to comment on the staff members. It has never been my privilege to work with such an outstanding group of people."

At the University of Mississippi, February 10-16, there were daily faculty luncheons which were attended by from fifty to sixty members of the teaching staff. Professor Wilhelm Pauck, of the Chicago Theological Seminary, was especially effective in the faculty luncheons in emphasizing the necessary place of religion in education. The meetings in the fraternities and sororities are an important part of the program.

T. Z. Koo, who has been spending several weeks in the leadership of the Mission, has made a strong appeal to the students wherever he has gone. Another influential

member of the Mission has been Professor D. T. Niles of India.

Rev. Robert B. Giffen, Campus Secretary for the Mission, is in charge of this series of six missions, terminating on March 8. On that date he goes to Princeton University to take up his permanent work as Student Pastor for the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. at the University.

Dr. Jones's Anniversary

The twentieth anniversary of the pastorate of Dr. Edgar DeWitt Jones at the Central Woodward Christian Church, Detroit, was celebrated on February 16. On that occasion the Federal Council of Churches was represented by Dr. Jesse M. Bader, Executive Secretary of the Federal Council's Department of Evangelism, who expressed the appreciation of the Council for Dr. Jones's service not only to Detroit but to American Christianity at large. Chief Justice George E. Bushnell, of the Judicial Council of Michigan, and Dr. H. C. Armstrong of Anderson, Ind., representing the Association for the Promotion of Christian Unity, also brought congratulatory messages. The chief address of the occasion was given by Dr. Benjamin Jay Bush, minister of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Detroit.

New Publications

Light in a Dark World. A four-page folder summarizing the main points in the 1940 program of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America together with its budget for the year. Free.

What Is the World Council of Churches? By W. A. Visser 't Hooft. An interpretation of the development and significance of the new international structure of the churches in the ecumenical movement. Free.

The Church's Contribution Toward a Warless World. By John Foster Dulles. Reprint of an important address dealing with the relation of the churches to lasting peace, with emphasis upon the necessity for a federal system for the world. 5 cents.

Suggestions for the Observance of Rural Life Sunday (April 28). Contains an order of worship, with suggested topics, Scripture readings and music, a bibliography and other materials. Five cents per copy; 100 copies \$1.00.

Continuing Education for the Minister in Town and Country. A leaflet listing 40 schools and institutes which provide important educational opportunities for brief periods for ministers especially interested in rural and village work. 5 cents per copy; \$1.00 per hundred.

Acts of Worship for Use at Pentecost. (Christian Unity Sunday.) Prepared as a guide for those who are planning services of worship emphasizing the spiritual oneness of the Christian Church and the fellowship of Christians of all denominations and lands. North American Provisional Committee for the World Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Ave., New York. \$1.00 per hundred.

Aids to Private Devotion and Prayer for Christian Unity. Also prepared by the North American Provisional

Committee for the World Council of Churches for use during the season of Pentecost but with special reference to personal prayer and meditation rather than public worship. \$1.00 per hundred.

Sharecroppers a Concern of the Church

A special effort of education among the churches on the plight of the sharecroppers is being made by the Home Missions Council and The Council of Women for Home Missions, with the coöperation of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. Church people are asked to study the national problems of tenancy, sharecropping and migrant work during National Sharecropper Week, March 3-10.

New study material is now available in a special issue of *Information Service* prepared by Dr. Benson Y. Landis, of the Federal Council's Research Department, entitled, "Where the Grapes of Wrath Are Stored," which may be obtained from the Federal Council or Home Missions Councils, at 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, at five cents per copy and \$3.25 per hundred.

It is expected that many church organizations, women's missionary societies, men's Bible classes and young people's societies will devote special meetings to this important subject and that many ministers will desire to use the authoritative material supplied by the church councils as the basis of sermons.

At the recent annual meetings of the Home Missions Council and The Council of Women for Home Missions it was decided to undertake special projects by furnishing leaders who will render religious and social service to sharecropper groups, relating the experience gained in the field to the ongoing process of education on these difficult national problems. The areas selected for this interdenominational ministry are the La Forge government homesteads project in Missouri, a county project in Alabama and one in Georgia.

The Federal Council coöperates through its Department of Race Relations and its Industrial Division.

Stewardship Year

Two or three denominations began their programs for 1940 as "Stewardship Year" on January 1. Most of them are starting the active work with the beginning of the fiscal year, sometime in the spring or summer. All of the materials that have been provided by the United Stewardship Council are being distributed through the denominational headquarters. In this endeavor are united the educational and promotional agencies for stewardship of more than twenty denominations. The Council will meet March 26 at the Hotel Roosevelt, Pittsburgh, Pa., to continue a discussion of the program already adopted and plans for the future.

Bad News from Spain

Conflicting reports from Spain make it very difficult to get a true picture of the situation. Anything like the free circulation of news is forbidden. From information coming to the Central Bureau for the Relief of the Evangelical Churches of Europe it appears that there are still marked shortages of food, clothing, and medicines. Denunciation for political or economic gain is the order of the day, as it is under every dictatorship.

The question of religious liberty is by no means settled. Protestant church buildings in Bilbao, Pradejon, Barbasastro, Alicante, Granada a Puerto de Santa Maria, and Santa Amelia, are reported confiscated or temporarily diverted to secular uses. There is a keenly felt loss in personnel. Twenty-one pastors had to leave the country and are refugees, most of them in the south of France. Only fifteen pastors remain in Spain and eleven teachers.

Recently a ray of hope seemed to penetrate the general gloom because General Franco, in answer to a plea by the Spanish Evangelical Alliance, had written a friendly letter assuring the Protestant minority of legal protection. A limited number of the churches was permitted to keep open or re-open, but to date none of the Protestant schools has been permitted to open. "El Porvenir," the only evangelical college in Spain, is still closed to students and is functioning as a relief center.

Among the thousands of Spanish refugees from Spain who have found a temporary, and rather precarious, haven in France, the situation remains unchanged. Efforts to arrange for settlement in South and Central America are continuing though of course hampered by the war, and temporary relief action especially for children and aged people is highly necessary.

Festival of the Christian Home

The movement for broadening Mother's Day (May 12th this year) by celebrating the day as The Festival of the Christian Home has won increasing favor. Great numbers of pastors have expressed themselves with approval and national organizations also have welcomed the idea.

The Committee on Marriage and the Home, with the collaboration of the Committee on Worship, has prepared a special service with other helps also to be used in churches that day. The service sheet contains an order of worship for congregational use, including a specially prepared responsive reading and a prayer of dedication. Informational material is added in the form of "Some Gleanings from Recent Studies of Family Life," with an inspiring statement from Dr. George A. Buttrick on the home and church revitalizing each other.

A "pastor's sheet," printed separately, has special helps for the service, including an invocation, a pastoral prayer, a Scripture meditation, and a guided service of prayer

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THE FAITH BY WHICH THE CHURCH LIVES Georgia Harkness

Starting from the present fact of a world church in a world crisis, the author states the perennial elements in the Christian message. She presents a *faith*, not a body of creedal formulations; the faith of the *Church*, not the beliefs of an aggregation of well-meaning persons; the faith by which the Church *lives*, not that by which it argues. **\$1.50**

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leading up to the final dedication and benediction. The sheet contains also further suggestions for making this day meaningful, and at the end a brief list of helpful literature on family life.

The service sheet may be had printed on the inside of a four-page folder, with pages one and four left blank for notices and other local material, at \$1.20 per 100, or on a single sheet at \$1.00 per 100. Single copies can be secured at five cents for both from the Committee on Marriage and the Home.

Appeal for Labor Peace

The Congress of Industrial Organizations and the American Federation of Labor were urged by prominent representatives of three faiths to employ for the settlement of their differences the same method of negotiation around a conference table which organized labor demands of employers. An identical communication containing this appeal was signed by Rt. Rev. Msgr. John A. Ryan, Director of the Department of Social Action of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Rev. James Myers, Industrial Secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, and Rabbi Edward L. Israel, Chairman of the Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, on February 17.

The clergymen representing the three major faiths said: "Because we have time and again made public our conviction that the interests of all parties and of the public are best served when differences and disputes are settled by negotiation around the conference table, we feel impelled now to make public our equally urgent appeal to the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations to settle their differences by the same method."

The statement recalled the fact that the signers "early in the conflict" had offered their services for any possible friendly mediation and declared:

"We have noted with satisfaction the action of both the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations at their last conventions to continue their negotiating committees. May we point out, however, that negotiating committees which do not meet are of little value. Obviously the way to resume negotiations is to resume them. We therefore respectfully urge both of your organizations to resume negotiations without further delay by arranging for a meeting of your negotiating committees already officially appointed by both of your conventions. We suggest that the joint conference of these committees can then explore all proposals for pro-

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cedure, including the recent proposal of the President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations that a joint convention of the two organizations be called."

The statement further declared:

"Millions of members of our faiths who belong to the rank and file of labor and to the general public are being affected by the present unhappy situation. We feel therefore that our concern for them as well as our long record of outspoken support of organized labor make it appropriate for us to offer this friendly counsel to the labor movement at this time."

"Christian Front" Censured

The Federal Council's Executive Committee on January 26 went on record with regard to the so-called "Christian Front" in the following vigorous terms:

"We note with satisfaction the recent issue of the Federal Council's *Information Service* presenting a declaration of the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Church and Mission Federation concerning that affront to all true American Christians which calls itself 'The Christian Front.' The statement, which applies equally to all organizations misusing the term 'Christian' in furthering racial and religious intolerance, says in part:

"We declare with utmost emphasis that any acts or utterances which tend to prejudice class against class or race against race or to advocate the infringement of our right to pursue religious freedom without let or hindrance are irreligious and un-Christian. No organization or group of individuals fostering such evil propaganda has the moral right to call itself Christian."

"Since the view of the Brooklyn Church and Mission Federation is in line with the policy of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America as expressed in past utterances and in public statements of its officers, we record our official endorsement of it."

Foreign Service Convocations

As a means of securing greater activity and unity in the support of the world-wide mission of the Church, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America is planning a series of foreign service convocation luncheons to be held on March 16 in several American cities. President Roosevelt and Queen Wilhelmina of Holland will address the luncheons by radio and it is hoped that groups throughout the country will listen in.

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Brotherhood Week

The seventh annual observance of Brotherhood Week, February 18-25, promoted by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, was more extensive than in any previous year. A preliminary estimate indicates that nearly a thousand communities had Brotherhood programs in churches and synagogues. The theme for the week was "The Present Crisis in Human Relations." The keynote of the observance was expressed by Dr. Everett R. Clinchy, Director of the National Conference, in the following words:

"The democratic institutions by which we live are founded on a great religious insight, that under the Fatherhood of God we are all brothers and sisters, every individual man and woman having an inviolable personal dignity as a child of our one Father, and all of us needing all the rest of us to make the family complete."

Study of Divorce

As a result of a suggestion made by the Episcopal Commission on Marriage and Divorce the Federal Council's Committee on Marriage and the Home is now making a study of the practice of the various Protestant churches with regard to re-marriage of divorced persons. One of the purposes is to find out how much interdenominational comity prevails or is possible with reference to the problem. It is hoped that as a result of the study it may be possible for the churches to agree upon a common procedure in accordance with which a clergyman of one denomination will not re-marry a divorced person of another church who could not be re-married with the sanction of his own church. The present practice with reference to re-marriage of divorced persons is so diverse that the problem is recognized as a very difficult one.

NEWS OF STATE AND LOCAL COÖPERATION

Franklin Ward Goes to Minneapolis

Dr. C. Franklin Ward on February 1 became the executive secretary of the Minneapolis Church Federation, succeeding Dr. James H. Speer, who retired from active service at the end of last year. Dr. Ward comes to his new post with a successful experience of leadership in the Federation of Churches of Rochester (N. Y.) and Vicinity, from which he resigned some years ago on account of ill health. His many friends throughout the nation will be gratified to know of his complete recovery and of his return to executive work in the movement of church federation.

Galesburg (Ill.) Forms Council of Churches

The latest addition to the list of church councils is the Galesburg (Ill.) Council of Churches, which was organized at the end of January. Nine churches were represented at the initial meeting when the constitution for the Council was adopted. Dr. Edwin N. Nash was elected President. A list of important committees was appointed dealing with Lenten meetings, radio, Christian education, Christian missions and international affairs, race relations, social welfare and educational work with adults, with children and with young people.

Brooklyn Completes Survey of City-wide Task

During several months prior to the annual meeting of the Brooklyn (N. Y.) Church and Mission Federation a thorough-going study of the situation facing the churches in Brooklyn was carried on, centering around the opportunity and the task of united Protestantism in the city. In connection with the annual meeting a conference on "The Church in Brooklyn" was held, at which the report of the study was presented in a document of fifty pages,

which included chapters on the following topics:

- Significant Population Changes and Characteristics
- Status of Protestantism in Brooklyn
- Youth and Brooklyn Churches
- The Religious Education of Brooklyn Children
- Possibility of Adjustment of Church Activity in Problem Areas Through Comity Agreements
- The Position of the Church in the Face of Social and Economic Needs of the People of Brooklyn
- The Coöperative Task of Protestantism in Brooklyn.

This report constitutes an invaluable survey supplemented with a dozen illuminating maps, diagrams and charts. The study was carried on with the special help of W. R. F. Stier of the Brooklyn Y.M.C.A.

Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Missouri Church and Sunday School Council

On May 1 to 3 the Missouri Church and Sunday School Council will hold its 75th anniversary convention in St. Louis. Until recently this organization devoted its interest exclusively to Sunday School work but has now broadened its field of responsibility and service to cover other important interdenominational interests of the state. A Missouri Convocation of Ministers was held at Columbia, Missouri, January 16 and 17, which brought a large group of pastors together from all parts of the state although the attendance was curtailed on account of inclement weather.

North Carolina Convocation

The state-wide convocation of the North Carolina Council of Churches in January had the general theme, "The Church Under New Perils." About 1500 people came together in Greensboro for a three-day period

of worship, discussion, addresses and fellowship. An interracial touch was given to the gathering by the presence of Dean Howard Thurman of Howard University as one of the chief speakers and by the singing of the *a capella* choir of Bennett College. Dr. Justin W. Nixon, of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N. Y., and Rev. A. J. Muste, of the Labor Temple, New York, were other outstanding speakers. Dr. J. Quinter Miller, of the Federal Council's staff, shared in the program.

The new President of the North Carolina Council is Dr. W. A. Stanbury, of the Central Methodist Church, Asheville. Rev. Ernest J. Arnold, who recently began his work, continues as Executive Secretary.

The North Carolina Council of Churches is the only organization of its kind below the Mason-Dixon Line.

Nebraska Convocation

Two hundred ministers gathered in Lincoln, Nebraska, January 8-10, for the tenth Annual Ministers' Convocation of the Nebraska Council of Churches. The severe weather reduced the attendance somewhat. The guest speakers included Dr. W. E. Garrison, of the Disciples' Divinity House, University of Chicago; Dr. Clarence W. Kemper, of the First Baptist Church of Denver; Bishop William C. Martin, of the Omaha area of the Methodist Church, and Dr. Jesse M. Bader, of the Federal Council's staff.

Indiana Moves Toward State Council

At the Indiana Pastors' Conference held in Indianapolis January 29-31, definite approval was given to a proposed constitution for an Indiana Council of Churches. The Indiana Council of Church Women, which met simultaneously, also approved the constitution. The State Council will come into existence when similar action has been taken by the Indiana Council of Christian Educa-

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tion and at least ten denominations.

The Conference registered a strong emphasis on Christian unity. Bishop Titus Lowe of the Methodist Church sounded this note as did also Dr. Leslie B. Moss of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. Dr. L. Foster Wood of the Federal Council's staff was one of the speakers.

New York Celebrates 85th Anniversary

The year 1940 is being observed by the New York State Council of Churches as the eighty-fifth anniversary year. For eighty-five years interdenominational Sunday school work has been carried on in New York on a state-wide basis. Five years ago the State Sunday School Association and the State Council of Churches united in a single organization under the direction of Dr. Wilbur T. Clemens as Secretary.

AMONG THE NEW BOOKS

Protestantism's Challenge

By CONRAD HENRY MOEHLMAN

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Refreshing candor marks this forthright treatise on the historical origins of Christianity and of Protestantism. On the basis of historical considerations, the author protests against Biblical literalism and an undue sanctity of religious ceremonialism. Tracing the development of the Apostles' Creed, the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist, the tradition of Apostolic Succession and the beginnings of the Church, he insists that an honest historical interpretation—in the place of "an idealized past"—will sweep away the various authoritarianisms and produce a spirit in which real Christian fellowship is possible. The emphasis throughout is on Jesus and the experience of the early disciples with Him, among whom we breathe an "invigorating air," as contrasted with the "stiffness" of the creeds and the sacraments of both Catholicism and Protestantism.

The main conclusion is that Protestantism should "return to Jesus" and take His ideals seriously, living in the spirit of "original" rather than of "medieval" Christianity.

The Council has adopted the objective of eliminating a debt of several years' standing by securing approximately 250 contributors of eighty-five dollars each.

The Mid-Winter Pastors' Convocation of the state was held at Syracuse University January 22 and 23, with a distinguished group of speakers including Dean Luther A. Weigle, Dr. Harold C. Phillips, Dr. Lloyd E. Foster, Dr. A. K. Getman and Chancellor Graham of the University. The Syracuse Council of Churches and the University joined with the New York State Council of Churches in sponsoring the convocation. A blizzard seriously reduced the attendance but more than 150 were present.

An interdenominational conference on the work of the rural church is being held in Kingston March 11 and 12. The leaders will include Professor Ralph A. Felton, Dr. Mark A. Rich and Dr. Hermann N. Morse.

The ethical emphasis is forceful and arresting. Probably many readers will feel that the protest against theological and ecclesiastical developments is extreme.

A Teacher and His Times

By WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN

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This autobiography will make a strong appeal to all readers of the BULLETIN to whom the author is well known by his leadership both in the Federal Council and in the World Council of Churches.

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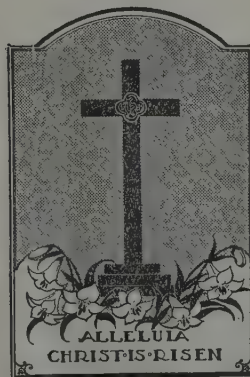
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Editor, The Upper Room,
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My dear Dr. Emmons:

me to many of the nations of the world. Every-
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Sincerely yours,
Arthur J. Moore

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Methodists United for Action

By JOHN R. MOTT

Methodist Board of Missions, Nashville, Tennessee

This is the first mission study book issued for the united Methodist Church in America. It comes, appropriately, from the pen

of the outstanding Methodist layman and internationally known missionary leader, Dr. John R. Mott.

The central purpose of the volume is to promote an understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities confronting American Methodism as it moves forward as a united church. The spirit of the author, however, is so ecumenical and his outlook so world-wide that the volume is of almost as much moment for all other Christians as for Methodists. Successive chapters deal with the perils to be avoided in the unification of Methodism, with the price which must be paid for effective unity, with the summons to a great advance in the missionary and educational work of the Church both in this country and in foreign lands, and with the "larger evangelism" which is regarded as the foundation of the whole program.

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Bernadette of Lourdes

By MARGARET GRAY BLANTON

Longmans, Green and Co. \$2.50

This book should be of as much interest to Protestants as it obviously is to Catholics, for it is a choice of the Catholic Book of the Month Club. When Dr. and Mrs. Smiley Blanton visited the great shrine of Lourdes in southern France a few years ago, they were interested mainly in investigating the reports of "spiritual" healing. In fol-

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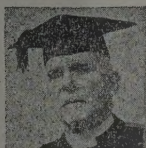
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lowing through on their study whose scope went far beyond their original intent, Mrs. Blanton assigned herself the subject of the life of Bernadette, the fourteen-year-old girl whose visions had been the origin of the shrine. She found a very different person from what she had anticipated, not a neurotic or ignorant child in any ordinary sense of the word but a courageous, straightforward and thoroughly interesting person whose extraordinary experiences and the adulation following upon them never changed the simplicity of her character.

This book gives Bernadette's story well for the first time in English. The visions occurred in 1858; Bernadette died in her thirties. The Roman Church was suspicious for many years, and accepted the visions only after very thorough investigation, of the results of which Mrs. Blanton has made full use. The author declines to make a statement about the "authenticity" of the visions, and even leans over backward to avoid making such a judgment. Herself a Protestant, she succeeds in presenting the character of Bernadette in such a way that the reader will see that as more important than whether or not Bernadette "saw" visions or just thought she did. The literary style is excellent; the story carries the reader along. S. H.

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After making the necessary allowances for a favorable bias toward this book due to a natural pride in the work of one who is a brother in the flesh as well as in the Christian ministry, the reviewer is convinced that this latest volume of sermons for children occupies a place of its own. It displays marked success in gleaming unhackneyed story-materials from the realms of art and literature. The stories all have pointed moral and spiritual suggestiveness and also stimulate an interest in literature and art for their own sake. Most of the story sermons are of such universal appeal that they will help any minister or teacher to improve his illustrative material in dealing with adults as well as with boys and girls.

The author is director of religious education and young people's work for the Presbyterian Synod of New York. S. M. C.

How Our Religion Began

By EDNA M. BAXTER

Harper Brothers. \$2.50

This able work in the Constructive Studies Series is presented in an interesting and inspiring way. It is based on modern Biblical scholarship and archaeological discoveries and includes a great deal from other contemporary cultures such as Babylonian, Egyptian and Greek. Here anyone interested in discovering or tracing the long road by which Christianity has come to us and something of the contributions of other peoples of other ages, will find authoritative guidance.

The book is intended for use as a source and guide for study in the church school for pupils 11 to 16 years of age but, as a matter of fact, the upper age has no limit. It is richly illustrated and there are five charts on the development of the religion, history and literature of the Hebrews.

Each chapter is followed by a list of very stimulating questions and suggestions for all sorts of research, pageants, posters and other educational enterprises. Like all of Professor Baxter's work the source references are very wide and enriching.

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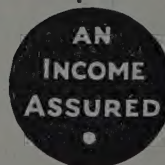
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